



# LCMT Proposals

## Draft Addendum XXV



American Lobster Management Board  
August 1, 2017

# Draft Addendum XXV



In May, the Board selected:

- 5% increase in egg production
- Gauge size changes, season closures, and/or trap reductions
- Recreational fishery must abide by gauge size changes
- During season closure, no possession of lobster and most restrictive rule does not apply
- Regulations do not have to be standardized across LCMAs
- Maintain LCMA 3 as a single area
- De minimis states must implement all mgmt. measures in Addendum XXV



# Process



- In mid-June, LCMTs submitted proposals to achieve a 5% increase in egg production
- TC met June 28<sup>th</sup> to review proposals
- Board will review proposals, TC report, and vote on management measures for each LCMA

# LCMT 2 Proposal



- Use current trap reduction plan, as specified in Addendum XVIII, as management tool to achieve 5% increase in egg production
- Unanimous support for the mgmt. measures chosen by the Board in May

YEAR	TRAP REDUCTION
2016	25% ✓
2017	5% ✓
2018	5%
2019	5%
2020	5%
2021	5%



# TC Review – LCMT 2



- TC does not find the LCMT 2 proposal sufficient
- Uncertainty in relationship between trap allocations, exploitation, and resulting egg production
- TC's analysis is based on a 25% active trap reduction; Area 2's proposal reduces total trap allocations and primarily reduces latent effort
- Trap transferability further reduces efficacy
- A review of MA LCMT 2 permit holders showed that trap hauls and pounds landed increased after the 25% trap reduction; similar trends in RI

# LCMT 3 Proposal



- Use current trap reduction plan to achieve 5% increase in egg production
- Note that there are complexities with multi-area permits, the market for traps, and operational constraints which all serve to reduce the amount of potential fishing effort
- Support 100/500 bycatch allowance during closed seasons for all gears

YEAR	TRAP REDUCTION
2016	5% ✓
2017	5% ✓
2018	5%
2019	5%
2020	5%



# TC Review – LCMT 3



- TC does not find the LCMT 3 proposal sufficient
- Uncertainty in relationship between trap allocations, exploitation, and resulting egg production
- TC's analysis based on a 25% active trap reduction; Area 3's proposal reduces total trap allocations
- Trap transferability further reduces efficacy
- TC does note that Area 3 may have lower levels of latent effort but still unclear if on-going trap reductions will reduce active effort

# LCMT 4 Proposal



- Propose a 10% trap allocation reduction for NY and NJ LCMA 4 permit holders
- Note that active lobstermen are fishing their full trap allocations so a 10% decrease in allocation should decrease actively fished pots by a similar amount
- Number of active lobstermen and traps fished in LCMA 4 fairly stable since 2012





# TC Review – LCMT 4



- TC does not find the LCMT 4 proposal sufficient
- Uncertainty in relationship between trap allocations, exploitation, and resulting egg production
- TC's analysis based on a 25% active trap reduction; Area 4's proposal reduces total trap allocations
- While there is no trap transferability in LCMA 4, permit information indicates roughly two-thirds of traps are latent effort

# LCMT 5 Proposal



- Proposing a 2mm increase in the minimum gauge size
- Current gauge size: 86mm-133mm
- Proposed gauge size: 88mm-133mm



# TC Review – LCMT 5



- TC finds the LCMT 5 proposal sufficient
- Analysis suggests a 2mm increase in the minimum gauge size will result in a 6% increase in egg production
- Increases in min gauge size are enforceable and provide direct biological benefits
- TC notes gauge size analysis was conducted on a stock-wide scale. In the future, it would be ideal to have length info from LMCA 5 in order to validate this result

# LCMT 6 Proposal



## Option 1: Status Quo

- Already seen a substantial decrease in effort and landings
- Additional restrictions will jeopardize fishery
- Recognize significant latent effort and would like to develop measures to reduce # of unused traps

## Option 2: 5% Increase in Egg Production

- A decrease in maximum gauge size from 133mm to 115mm (5-3/4" to 4-17/32") to achieve a 1% increase in egg production
- Nine Sunday closures in July and August to achieve a 4.3% increase in egg production



# TC Review – LCMT 6



- TC does not find LCMT 6 proposal sufficient
- TC supports the use of a maximum size decrease to achieve a 1% increase in egg production
  - Enforceable
  - Provides permanent protection to larger lobsters
- TC does not support use of Sunday closures
  - Traps are still able to catch lobsters
  - Unless traps are disabled, Sunday closures are akin to a one day delay in harvest
  - With a short closure, easy to recoup losses during the week; consecutive season closure days are more effective



# LCMA 4 Season Closure



American Lobster Management Board

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# LCMA 4 Season Closure



- ASMFC received a letter from NY and NJ asking the Commission to address inconsistencies in the LCMA 4 season closure
- LCMA 4 closed April 30-May 31 (Addendum XVII)

<b>State Waters</b>	<b>Federal Waters</b>
Most restrictive rule applies to season closures	Most restrictive rule does not apply to season closures
Traps can stay in water if permitted for another species	All lobster traps must come out of water

# Most Restrictive Rule



- At the February 2012 meeting, the following motion was passed to address TC and LEC concerns about shifting effort and enforcement:  
*Motion that LCMT measures require the most restrictive rule apply to participants with multiple LCMA permits*
- NOAA applied the most restrictive rule to everything except season closures



# Most Restrictive Rule



## To resolve:

- If the Board does not want the most restrictive rule applied to season closures in state waters:
  - A two-thirds majority vote is needed to reverse the 2012 motion applying the most restrictive rule
- If the Board wants the most restrictive rule to be applied to season closures in federal waters:
  - A letter needs to be sent to NOAA asking the most restrictive rule be applied to season closures in federal waters

# Traps Out of The Water



- During February 2012 Board meeting, the following motion was passed:

*All closed areas proposed in Addendum XVII require that lobster traps are removed from the water during the closed period.*

- However, the Board discusses that this applies to “directed fishery lobster traps” and the fact that some traps are used for multiple species
- This was not clearly reflected in the motion or in the Addendum
- As a result, NOAA requires all lobster traps be removed from the water

# Traps Out of The Water



## To resolve:

- If the Board would like traps that fish for multiple species to stay in the water, a letter needs to be sent to NOAA clarifying this point in Addendum XVII
  - What about Jonah crab? Are all traps multi-species traps?
- If the Board would like all traps that fish for lobster to stay in the water, a two-thirds majority vote is needed to reverse the previous motion
  - What about the ALWTRT 30 day wet storage provision?

# Implications for Other Closures



- If the Board makes a motion that the most restrictive rule does not apply to season closures in state waters, this may impact other LCMAs (4, 5, 6) season closures
- If the Board clarifies that traps do not have to be removed in federal waters, this may impact federal waters of LCMA 5 during their season closure (Feb 1 – March 31)



# GOM/GBK Subcommittee Report



American Lobster Management Board  
August 1, 2017

# Overview



- Subcommittee met in New Hampshire on July 13<sup>th</sup>
- This was the second meeting of the Subcommittee and expanded upon the preliminary recommendations presented to the Board in May
- Subcommittee includes Board members, industry organization leaders, TC members, and fishermen
- Established to discuss future mgmt. of stock given changing conditions

# Need for Proactive Mgmt.



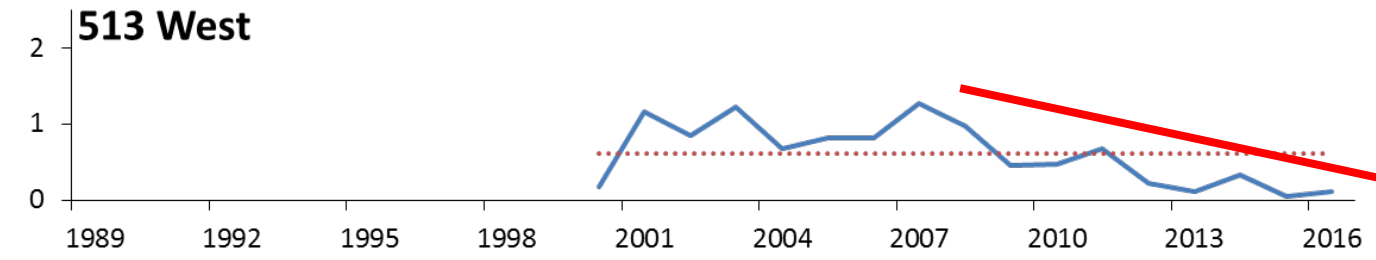
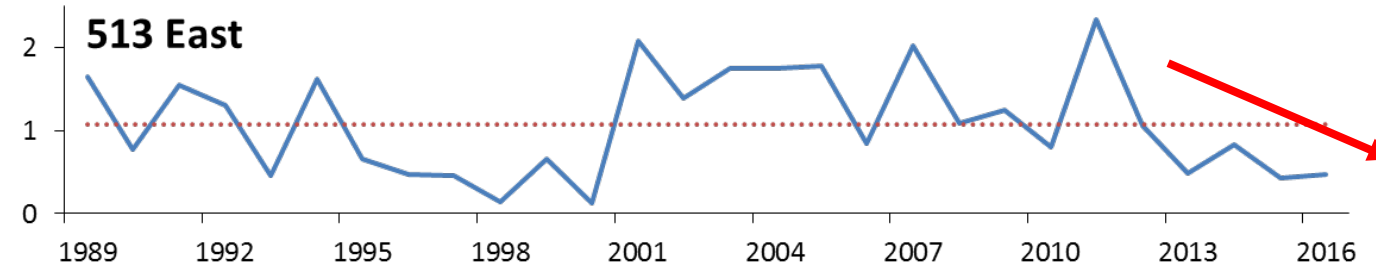
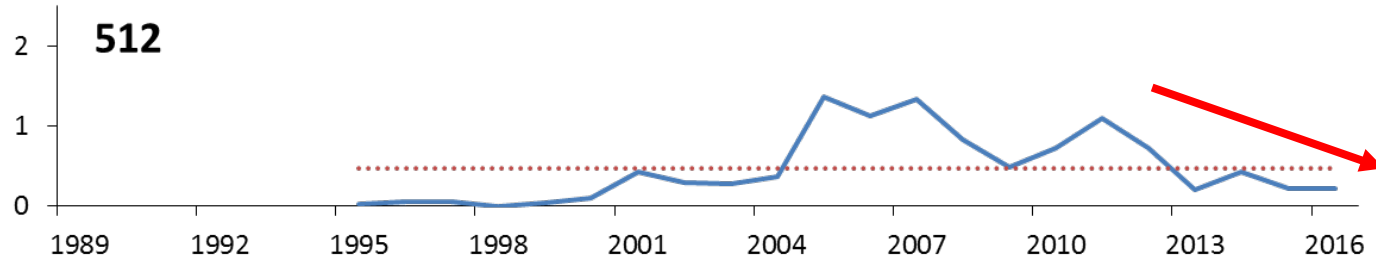
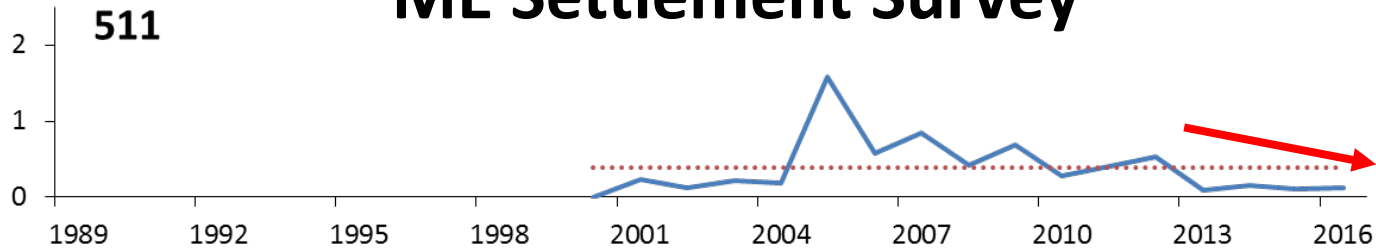
- American lobster fishery is one of the largest and most valuable fisheries along the Atlantic coast
- In 2016, over 158 million pounds were landed totaling \$666.7 million dollars in ex-vessel value
- Vast majority of landings are concentrated in GOM/GBK
- Economic importance to coastal communities, particularly in Maine



# Need for Proactive Mgmt.



## ME Settlement Survey





# Goals and Recommendations



- Goal is to increase the resiliency of the GOM/GBK stock
- Multi-phase approach which includes a proactive management response
- In response to signs of reduced settlement and the combination of the GOM and GBK stocks in the 2015 Stock Assessment

# Phase One



- Recommendation that the Board initiate an addendum to consider uniform mgmt. measures in the GOM/GBK stock
  - Includes gauge sizes, v-notch requirements, etc.
- Proactive response; builds additional biological buffer through the protection of SSB across LCMAs
  - Currently, disparate measures allow lobsters protected in one LCMA to be harvested in another
- Addresses enforcement concerns, particularly rules regarding lobster chain of custody
- Initiating an addendum charges PDT with developing mgmt. alternatives and starts the Commission's public process

# Phase Two



- Seeks to address fact that substantial economic effects will be felt before reference points trigger mgmt. action
  - Trigger action at 25<sup>th</sup> percentile (66 million lobsters)
  - Currently at 248 million lobsters
- Recommendation that triggers be developed which require management action at a higher abundance
  - Still need to identify nature of trigger and mgmt. response
- Initiate conversations with industry to field potential goals and gain consensus that current reference points will lead to economic consequences
- 2020 Stock Assessment provides opportunity for Board to consider reference points that more appropriately reflect current conditions



# Update on Draft Addendum XXVI



American Lobster Management Board

August 1, 2017

# Overview



- Board initiated addendum to improve harvester reporting and biological data collection in state and federal waters
- Prompted by:
  - Current spatial resolution of data is insufficient to respond to mgmt. issues (i.e. monuments, corals)
  - Increased landings in GOM/GBK and offshore; however, not all fishermen are required to report
  - Progression of fishery offshore where little biological sampling takes place

# Goals and Objectives



1. Utilize the latest technology to improve reporting
2. Increase the spatial resolution of harvester data
3. Collect greater effort data
4. Advance the collection of biological data offshore



# Issue 1: Percent Harvester Reporting



## Option A: Status Quo

## Option B: X% Harvester Reporting

- Applies to active commercial harvesters
- Percentage identified by TC as statistically valid
- States which currently require greater than X% must maintain higher level of reporting
- Phase-in approach

## Option C: 100% Harvester Reporting

- Applies to active commercial harvesters
- Phase-in approach

# Electronic Reporting



- Addendum highly recommends, but does not require, electronic reporting
  - Cost-effective way to increase harvester reporting
- Recommends SAFIS application eTrips/eTrips Mobile
  - Implemented at little to no cost
  - Approved by GARFO for eVTR
  - Well established relationship between ASMFC and ACCSP
- Flexibility for states to chose another platform but it must be API compatible, meet data element requirements of addendum, and accommodate large scale of lobster fishery



# Issue 2: Data Components



## Option A: Status Quo

- Unique trip ID, vessel #, trip start date, NMFS stat area, number of traps hauled, traps set, quantity (lbs), trip length

## Option B: Expanded Data Elements

- In addition to the above elements, harvesters would have to report location (10' square), depth, bait type, total # of traps in water, # of vertical lines. Electronic tracking could replace depth and location.
- PDT is still working to develop this option
- Plan to reach out to Office of Protected Resources to better understand ALWTRT data needs

# Issue 3: Electronic Tracking



## Option A: Status Quo

- There is no electronic tracking program

## Option B: Pilot Program for Electronic Tracking

- One year pilot program established to test electronic tracking devices
- Subcommittee would be formed to implement program
- Multiple technologies can be tested
- Following one year program, results presented to Board; Board can decide to end the pilot program, extend it for another year, or consider adoption of electronic tracking devices in part or all of fishery

# LEC - Electronic Tracking



- On June 29<sup>th</sup> call, LEC provided comments on electronic tracking
- LEC highlighted the need for a low cost device with a fast ping rate to discern between transiting and hauling
- LEC agreed a tracking system would be useful for enforcement purposes, especially in remote areas

# Timeline



January 2017	Board initiates Draft Addendum XXVI
February-July 2017	PDT drafts preliminary document
August-October 2017	TC completes analysis needed for addendum; PDT continues to work on developing management alternatives
Annual Meeting	Review draft Addendum XXVI?



# LEC Report on Lobster Chain of Custody



American Lobster Management Board  
August 1, 2017

# Lobster Chain of Custody



- LEC met via conference call on June 29<sup>th</sup>
- Discussed sale of lobster from other states with differing min. size or other harvest restrictions
- Prompted by the smaller minimum gauge size in LCMA 1 (3-1/4"), declining landings in SNE, and increasing landings in GOM

# Lobster Chain of Custody



## Various state regulations:

- RI, CT allow dealers to purchase lobsters from out of state; however, dealers are not allowed to sell undersize lobsters in home state
- In MA, minimum sizes are enforced at harvester level; significant fines in place to reduce illegal activity but LEC rep noted difficulty getting max fines applied in court
- NY, NJ have strict possession regs which prohibit dealers from buying and possessing undersized lobsters from other states; LEC reps expressed concern that liberalizing regs could open the door for significant illegal activity

# Lobster Chain of Custody



- Overall, no consensus emerged from LEC
- Ability of enforcement in each state to monitor undersized lobsters is dependent on size of fishery, number of dealers, and state resources
- LEC reiterates support for standardized regs





# **NOAA OLE Draft Priorities FY 2018-2022**



American Lobster Management Board  
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# Northeast Priorities



## Sustainable Fisheries

- Observer assault, harassment, and safety
- Vessel and dealer reporting, and permitting compliance
- Violations involving prohibited species bycatch
- Vessel incursions into closed or protected marine areas
- Monitoring and enforcement of illegal sales of fish by rec sector
- Gear compliance under MSA

## Seafood Fraud

- Seafood safety violations
- False labeling and misbranding violations

# Northeast Priorities



## Protected Resources

- Illegal take of marine mammals
- Violations resulting marine mammal stranding, entanglement, injury, or mortality
- Gear violations under ESA and MMPA
- Illegal human interactions with sea turtles
- Gear violations within national marine sanctuaries
- Moving, removing, injuring, or possessing a sanctuary historical resource
- Whale harassment and vessel speed restrictions
- Enforcement of Marine National Monument restrictions
- Compliance with ALWTRP and HPTRP
- Enforcement during stranding events
- Enforcement support to recovery of Atlantic salmon

# Northeast Priorities



## IUU/International

- Foreign transshipment and fishing activity in violation of US law or international treaty
- Maritime boundary line incursions by foreign fishing vessels
- Illegal imports or undeclared products entering ports
- Transshipment and export of illegal product from US vessels

## Wildlife Tracking

- Fish and wildlife illegally harvested through ports into domestic or foreign commerce
- CITES listed fish and wildlife entered illegally into interstate or foreign commerce

# LEC Comments



- LEC met via conference call on July 25<sup>th</sup> to review the NOAA OLE priorities
- NOAA OLE members commented that the agency has moved away from species specific priorities and high vs. low rankings
- Intent is to provide greater flexibility
- Noted that for the NE Division, there is a Sustainable Fisheries priority to increase “gear compliance under MSA” that could be applied to lobster